

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No.: 3-SS-01-09

Issued at: Fairbanks, Friday August 21, 2009

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday August 24, 2009

Expiration Date: October 15, 2009, unless  
superseded by subsequent emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes all fresh water drainages and the salt waters of Norton Sound between Cape Rodney and Topkok Head to sport fishing for coho salmon, effective 12:01 a.m. Monday, August 24, 2009. In addition, the use of bait while sport fishing in these fresh waters is prohibited.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area. (c)(3)(B) and 5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish are superseded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order, the following provisions are effective, beginning 12:01 a.m. Monday July 24, 2009:

#### **5 AAC 70.011. Seasons and bag, possession, and size limits for the Northwestern Management Area.**

(c)(3)(B) coho salmon is three fish, with no size limit, except that all fresh water drainages and the salt waters of Norton Sound between Cape Rodney and Topkok Head are closed to sport fishing for coho salmon;

#### **5 AAC 70.030. Methods, means, and general provisions – Finfish.**

(f) the use of bait in all fresh water drainages between Cape Rodney and Topkok Head is prohibited.

Denby S. Lloyd  
Commissioner

By delegation to: \_\_\_\_\_

Brendan Scanlon  
Northwest Area Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Escapement counts of coho salmon at the weir on the Nome River are well below historic averages. As of August 19th, only 101 coho salmon had passed through the weir. From 2004 – 2008 an average of 1,118 coho salmon had passed through the weir by this date. In addition, the weir on the nearby Snake River is showing a similar decline in coho salmon passage from recent years. Due to the current low escapement of coho salmon in these drainages and lack of escapement information on similar drainages in Norton Sound, the prohibition of sport fishing for coho salmon and the use of bait are warranted to ensure sufficient numbers of fish reach the spawning grounds. The affected drainages in this area include the Sinuk, Cripple, Penny, Snake, Nome, Flambeau, Eldorado, Bonanza, and Solomon rivers. If in-season stock assessment information indicates that sufficient numbers of coho salmon return to these rivers to sustain a sport fishery, restrictions will be relaxed.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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